

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for automatically nullifying variables in a middleware computer program, said method comprising:  
  
reading, by a just in time compiler, one or more variables included in one or more activation records included in the middleware computer program, wherein the variables reference one or more objects, the objects stored in a garbage collected heap stored in a computer memory;  
  
identifying, by the just in time compiler, a program statement in the middleware computer program where a selected variable is last used;  
  
inserting, by the just in time compiler, a nullification statement after the identified program statement, the nullification statement adapted to nullify the selected variable;  
  
writing the activation records, the identified program statement, and the nullification statement to a resulting code file for the middleware computer program;  
  
executing the middleware computer program, wherein the executing further comprises:  
  
    executing the nullification statement to nullify the selected variable; and  
  
    after nullifying the selected variable, executing a garbage collection program, wherein executing the garbage collection program comprises identifying one of the objects that was previously referenced by the

selected variable, and reclaiming the memory occupied by the identified object.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation records include one or more local variable definitions.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation records include one or more argument parameters.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
identifying one or more program statements from the plurality of program statements where one or more other variables are last used; and  
  
writing nullification statements for each of the other variables following the identified program statement corresponding to the variable's last use to the resulting code file.
10. (Canceled)
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29. (Canceled)